



Arizona Department of Water Resources

Protecting Arizona's Water Supplies For Its Next Century

ARIZONA'S WATER INITIATIVE

On October 5th Governor Ducey announced his water planning initiative for the state. The Arizona Water Initiative is based off of and furthers the activities identified in the 2014 Strategic Vision for Water Supply Sustainability Report, which identified key priorities, timelines and action items needed to maintain sustainable water supplies for Arizona's future. The Water Initiative was implemented with the signing of Executive Order 2015-13 on December 16, 2015.

Through this initiative, the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) will work closely with key stakeholders statewide on two parallel tracks.

TRACK ONE

The first track will focus on a stakeholder driven analysis of the 22 Planning Areas identified in the Arizona's Strategic Vision for Water Supply Sustainability Report.

In this track, ADWR will work closely with the Planning Areas to identify issues that are resulting in demand and supply imbalances and to develop strategies that are likely to be successful in addressing them.

The goal is to address all 22 Planning Areas in the next 5 years:

- Year 1: Cochise, West Basins and Northwest Basins Planning Areas
- ADWR is currently developing a schedule for the remaining Planning Areas



**Strategic
Vision Planning Areas**

TRACK TWO

The second track involves the creation of a Governor's Water Augmentation Council that will investigate long-term water augmentation strategies, additional water conservation opportunities, and funding and infrastructure needs to help secure water supplies for Arizona's future.

- Arizona Department of Water Resources Director Thomas Buschatzke and the Governor's Natural Resources Policy Advisor Hunter Moore are co-chairs.
- Members of the Council are appointed by the Governor and include water resources experts, watershed groups, Tribes, local government and industry leaders in Arizona agriculture, mining, and homebuilding.
- ADWR will provide staffing and technical assistance to the Council.
- The Council will consider the need to create additional working groups, which will include both Council members and non-Council members.
- The Council will consider a communication plan for the State to accurately convey the status of Arizona's water supply resiliency and its efforts to maintain that status moving forward.
- The Council will provide on an annual basis, a report to the Governor that describes the activities and the recommendations of the Council and activities of the first track planning area process:
 - ◊ The 2016 Annual Report included recommendations for both the Council and ADWR to address, among other things, reducing lost and unaccounted for water in rural systems.
 - ◊ The Council discussed augmentation possibilities through statewide water conservation opportunities at the inaugural meeting, held February 19, 2016, at ADWR.

BACKGROUND ON THE STRATEGIC VISION

In January 2014, ADWR published Arizona's Strategic Vision for Water Supply Sustainability.

The purpose of the Strategic Vision is to help guide Arizona through the coming decades and to provide steps to secure water supplies to meet current and anticipated demands to provide a stable economy for our future.

The Strategic Vision assessed current and projected water demands and supplies that had been identified in recent reports, and offered potential strategies designed to ensure that Arizona will have robust and reliable water supplies to meet its future needs.

Recent studies (the Water Resources Development Commission Report, and the Colorado River Basin Water Demand & Supply Study), developed in concert with stakeholders in the water resources community recognize that over the next 25 to 100 years, Arizona will need to identify and develop additional water supplies to meet projected water demands. While there may be viable local water supplies that have not yet been developed, water supply acquisition and/or transportation will be required for some areas of the State to realize their growth potential.

The Strategic Vision concluded that ultimately, the State as a whole is not facing an immediate water crisis; however, there are local areas that require more immediate action.

Arizona's Strategic Vision created the framework for the development of potential strategies to address the projected imbalances. It provided context for maximizing the effectiveness of these strategies to address the needs of multiple water users across the State.

REGIONAL STRATEGIES

No single strategy can address the projected water supply imbalances. Instead, a portfolio of strategies will need to be implemented dependent on the needs of each area of the State. Due to the uniqueness of the various regions throughout the Arizona, ADWR organized the state into twenty-two solution oriented "Planning Areas". A regional analysis of the water supply needs required for each Planning Area was completed and a suite of strategies was identified for each of the 22 Planning Areas.

STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

There are also specific measures that have widespread potential benefits to all Arizonans. Below is a list of strategic priorities, which ADWR believes will move Arizona forward in addressing its future water needs:

- ♦ Resolution of Indian and Non-Indian Water Rights Claims
- ♦ Continued Commitment to Conservation and Expand Reuse of Reclaimed Water
- ♦ Expanded Monitoring and Reporting of Water Use
- ♦ Identifying the Role of In-State Water Transfers
- ♦ Supply Importation – Desalination
- ♦ Develop Financing Mechanism to Support Water Supply Resiliency

*Arizona's Next Century:
A Strategic Vision for Water Supply Sustainability*



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